

The Morehouse-Gorham Company, publishers of religious books and magazines, has donated its library of more than 8,000 volumes in history, philosophy, literature, and religion to the Milwaukee Public Library. Announcement of the gift was made Tuesday by Richard E. Krug, librarian, at a meeting of the Library Board.

The collection of books and magazines had been built up by the firm and by friends as a memorial to Frederic Cook Morehouse, long a prominent Milwaukee citizen and editor of The Living Church until his death in 1932.

Although many books and periodicals on non-religious subjects are included, the memorial library is especially rich in the fields of liturgy and church history. Each book on the collection will contain a special bookplate identifying it as a part of the memorial.

No figures were given for the total value of the collection, but Paul Gratke, head of the Philosophy department at the public library, said the Morehouse gift would more than double the value of the library's present holdings in the field of religion.

Added to the gift are two rare books which will be deposited with the library on permanent loan. One is the Canonical copy of the De Vinne Press edition of the 1892 Standard Book of Common Prayer, presented by the Milwaukee Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the other is the Merrymount Press edition of the 1928 Standard Book, given by the Morehouse-Gorham Company.

Librarian Krug announced that the company will also continue its interest in the memorial gift by donating to the library copies of all its future publications and those of its affiliated firms abroad.

The greater portion of the Memorial collection, Krug explained, will be housed in the library's Philosophy department. Since the gift is

particularly rich in the field of liturgics, Krug suggested to the Library Board that the section on that subject might well stand as a tribute to Mr. Morehouse.

The gift also includes sets of magazines, many of which are new to the library. Some of these sets are incomplete, however, and the hope was expressed by library officials that churches having duplicates of these might offer them to complete the files of the Memorial collection.

Other special items in the gift include two hand-tooled and leather-bound copies of a limited edition of Dante's "New Life;" a manuscript book of sermons preached from 1644-1651; a series of fine, large type Anglican missals printed in red and black, including the Morehouse Company's own "American Missal" published in 1931; and many fine editions of volumes in American church history.

Some of the more exceptional items will be exhibited in the first floor corridor of the library during the coming month.

The history of the Morehouse Publishing company of Milwaukee, which merged with the New York firm of Edwin S. Gorham in 1938, dates back to 1870 with the publication of the first periodical, The Young Churchman. The company took over publication of the Living Church in 1900. When Linden H. Morehouse died in 1915, his son Frederic Cook Morehouse, became president. He was succeeded in 1932 by Linden H. Morehouse, 2d, his nephew, as president, and Clifford P. Morehouse, his son, as editor.

Linden Morehouse is now president of the new Morehouse-Gorham Co., and Clifford Morehouse, who in April, 1942, was one of four Americans representing their fellow Episcopalians at the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is now a first lieutenant in the marine corps and Assistant Editor of the Marine Corps Gazette. Peter Day is acting editor of the Living Church for the duration.

(sent to:
A.L.A. Bulletin
Library Journal
Publishers' Weekly
Wisconsin Library Bul.)

The Milwaukee Public Library has been given a valuable gift by the Morehouse-Gorham Publishing Company of Milwaukee and New York. The library has been presented with a collection of more than eight thousand books in the fields of philosophy, literature, religion and history. These are from the company's library which had been built up as a memorial to Frederic Cook Morehouse, for many years president of the firm and editor of its leading magazine, The Living Church.

The gift will at least double the value of the library's present collection of religious books. An added feature of the gift is a provision whereby the Morehouse-Gorham company will continue to donate to the library copies of all its future publications and those of its affiliated firms abroad.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

September 22, 1943

Mr. Peter Day
Morehouse-Gorham Company
744 North Fourth Street
Milwaukee - 3 - Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Day:

You will find enclosed the article you suggested that I write describing what we are trying to do with the religious collection in the Milwaukee Public Library and how the Morehouse Memorial has contributed to the importance of our holdings. I am also forwarding for your record copies of the releases issued by our Department of Publications and Exhibits.

You are aware, no doubt, that many of the periodical runs were broken and that there are many gaps remaining in the section on liturgics and church history which we feel might be corrected if people were aware of our interest in these subjects. Any comments in your editorial pages to this effect would be much appreciated.

The exhibit of some of the book rarities is still being shown and you and your staff might be interested in the display.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Gratke

Paul Gratke
Chief of Department
Book Selection & Order Dept.

PG:gs

Enclosures

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